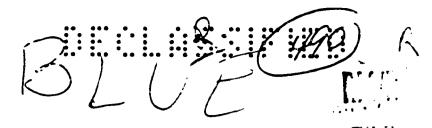
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Jaly 28, 1961

COMPLDENTIAL

MEMORANDOM FOR MR. MEGRORGE BUNDY THE WELTE BOUGH

Subject: Initial Blos Reaction to President's Speech

Attached is a paper propared in INR which Roger Milanes thought might be of interest to you.

Executive Secretary

S/S-RO

JUL 28 1961

M true copy of signed original

DEPARTMENT CY STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY HOUSTON DATE 4/

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SUBJECT: Intelligence Note: Dutial Bloc Reaction to President's Speech

Soviets Strees Berlin Pretext for Arms Buildup. Initial Saviet radio exements on President Kennedy's speech deall on US arms spending and shift emphasis from Berlin by arguing that the US is fanning the Berlin crisis in order to justify a predetermined arms program. Calling Berlin a pretext and denying that it is a cause of the US military buildup, they suggest to the home sudience that the danger of military action is connection with Berlin is minimal.

Rest Cermans Deny War Danger. East Cerman commentators go further and say flatly that there will be so wer. They argue that the US carnot and will not sage war for West Berlin and that there is "absolutely" no cause for "penic."

References to Negotiations. The Soviets quote President Kernedy's ents on (1) willingness to undertake discussions and (2) the Soviet security interest in Central and Eastern Europe, but say that he made no specific proposals. East German commentators do more to highlight the theme of US willingness to megotiate, and stress the President's reference to eliminating factors of disturbance and friction in West Berlin. The Best Germans allege that the President's remark reflects a substantial difference between the US approach on Berlin and the rigid line advocated by the Pederal Republica

Conclusions. Mice propaganda reaction so far seems designed (1) to win diplomatic support for the Soviet position by contrasting US arms buildup with USSR's proposals for peaceful settlement; (2) to draw attention to need for negotiations, and (3) to calm fears of war swong blog populaces, particularly in Best Germanya

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